

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 21, 23 and 25 were rejected, claims 22 and 24 were objected to, and claims 1-20 were allowed. By the present response, claims 21, 23 and 24 are amended, claim 22 is cancelled, and new claims 26 and 27 are added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-21 and 23-27 will remain pending in the present patent application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 21 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 22. Claim 22 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claim 22 is cancelled by the present response. Claims 23 and 24 have been amended based on the amendments to claim 21. As dependent claims 23, 24 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 21 these claims are also considered to be allowable.

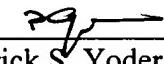
Claim 24 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 26 is added and includes the recitations of allowable claim 24 and base claim 21, and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is believed to be equally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/15/2004


Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545